



## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE August 27, 2010**

### **OPI Business Education Specialist HIRED!**

The Career, Technical and Adult Education Division of the Montana Office of Public Instruction would like to announce the hiring of Eric Swenson as the new Business Education Specialist. Eric comes to OPI after 13 years teaching business education courses and advising the Denton High School's BPA chapter.

During his time in Denton, Eric served on numerous curriculum committees, attended a variety of state, regional, and national business education and career & technical education-related conventions, and has held many leadership positions within the Montana Business Education Association, the Western Business Education Association, the Montana Association for Career and Technical Education, and with Business Professionals of America on the state and national levels.

As Montana's new specialist, Eric looks forward to working with local educators on developing their Big Sky Pathways and Programs of Study, providing professional development and curriculum support, and assisting in the continued growth of Montana BPA and Montana DECA. Along with becoming the new specialist, Eric will also serve as state advisor of the Montana association of Business Professionals of America.

During the 2010 Big Sky Pathways Institute, Eric will hold a session Friday morning for all business and marketing educators to share some of his goals and plans for business education in Montana.

Eric may be contacted at OPI by phone at 406.444.7991 or via email, [eswenson@mt.gov](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov).

### **Big Sky Pathways Initiative WEBINAR**

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) are hosting a **webinar on Thursday, September 9 from 3:30 -4:00 PM** to explain the objectives of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative, the expectations of the Big Sky Pathways Development Meetings, and the directions to complete the sign-up form. Participants will have the chance to ask questions regarding the Initiative and its requirements. This webinar will be recorded and posted for viewing by participants unable to attend the webinar.

Posted on the Secondary CTE page of the OPI web site, please find a REVISED version of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative Guidance document and the sign-up form. If your school has NOT submitted this form, you are encouraged to do so by September 20. If your school has already submitted this form, please review your selections to ensure all CTE professionals in your school have been taken into consideration and offered the chance to attend; let us know if changes are needed on the form you submitted.

The announcement of this Initiative was sent to all schools via an OPI Official E-mail on May 27. Schools were asked to sign up for the Big Sky Pathways Development Meetings and submit the form to the OPI by June 15. Since not all schools have responded, this webinar is an attempt to give all high schools the opportunity to take advantage of these meetings.



## **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

Greetings to all and a special welcome to NEW teachers to our profession! I hope you have a great year. As a reminder to all of you, if you have questions or there is any way I can help, please don't hesitate to ask.

First, some reminders:

Perkins E-grant applications are due September 15

District Leadership Schools – weeks of September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

The 83rd National FFA Convention: October 20-23, 2010 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Once again we have a record high number of Ag programs (83). We lost the programs in Belt and Turner, but gained programs in Simms, Drummond, Darby, Cut Bank and Lodge Grass. Here is a listing of the programs with new teachers:

Simms - Clayton Gernaat

Drummond - Lauretta Hill

Savage - Sara A. Schledewitz

Hobson - James Bergstrom

Absarokee - Rob Yates

Lodge Grass - Ty Neal

Chinook - John Schnieder

Ronan - Emory Wilson

Circle - Norval Marsh

Darby - Sabrina Lamb

Judith Gap - Kaitlin Leonard

Plevna - Sam Peterman

Moore – Joe Vanek

Ekalaka - Tyler Classen

Cut Bank - Theron Lee

Please welcome these teachers to our family, help out any way you can!

Respectfully submitted,

**Dr. Brad King**

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## **Business, Management and Information Systems**

This summer has been a busy time with a lot of changes and activity within business education in Montana. On July 1, I started my first day as **Montana's Business Education Specialist**. While in the past this position was titled Business and Marketing Education Specialist, the two area titles have been infused into one all-encompassing curriculum area, business education. This also helps to bring the Office of Public Instruction in-line with our professional organizations (National Business Education Association, Western Business Education Association, and Montana Business Education Association). On the local level, the Office of Public Instruction will continue to acknowledge, endorse, and fund business education and marketing education programs as has been done in the past.

In regards to our two **Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)**, Erin Weisgerber will continue as Montana DECA's State Advisor and I will be the state advisor for Montana BPA. In beginning the leadership role for Montana BPA, I would like to thank Becky DePuydt and Sheila Crosmer for their dedication and leadership during our times of transition the past two years.

In making the move to OPI late in the spring, there was not adequate time to establish a process for filling our Classroom Educators Advisory Council (CEAC) secondary representative position for the summer CEAC meeting; however, Brenda Rudolph was there as Montana's postsecondary representative and did an excellent job on behalf of all of Montana BPA's members.

The **Montana BPA Executive Board** met the end of July in Lewistown and had a very productive meeting. Some of the main items covered during the meeting include the reappointment of our state conference committee of Julie O'Dell, Competitive Events Coordinator, Elaine Stedman, Judged Events Coordinator, and Molly Barta, Judge Recruiter.

The Board also selected Becky DePuydt to serve as State Leadership Conference Registration Coordinator. Becky spent countless hours refining and enhancing the registration process for the state conference last year and the Board greatly appreciates her time and efforts. For this year's conference, registration will continue to be handled by Becky and she will also work on slating administrator/proctor/grader assignments for chapter advisors and she and I will coordinate the "Bump-Up List" for the National Leadership Conference together.

The Board also discussed the **secondary CEAC representative vacancy**. During the regional advisor meetings, the regional coordinators will have a job description to distribute to all local chapter advisors detailing the duties and responsibilities of a CEAC representative. Interested local advisors will be able to apply for consideration and a committee will conduct interviews during State Leadership Conference to select a new representative. More specific details will be available in the fall and they will also be posted on Montana BPA's website (bpamt.org).

For your calendars, the 2011 State Leadership Conference will be in Billings March 13-15 and the National Leadership Conference will be May 3-8, 2011 in Washington, DC.

The **Montana DECA Board** and chapter advisors will be having their fall meeting in Helena on Sunday, September 19. Montana DECA State Advisor Eric Weisgerber will be sending out specifics soon. Part of the meeting will include planning for the State CDC which will be in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn February 13-15 and the DECA ICDC April 30-May 3 in Orlando.



The CTE specialists are continuing to work on plans for the regional **Big Sky Pathways** workgroup meetings. In doing so, a Tool Kit of curriculum resources is being put together to aid in the development of Programs of Study and to build relationships between content standards and guidelines and the knowledge and skills statements of the Career Clusters.

Members of the committees working on **STatewide ARTiculations (referred to as START)** for accounting and computer applications met in mid-August to review the results from last school year's implementations and to work on additional offerings.

In the **accounting** area, committee members reviewed the results from schools offering the NOCTI assessment and discussed the overall process. The feedback was very positive and hopefully more schools will offer the assessment this year. The committee also continued the investigation of the possibility of offering articulation for Accounting II/Accounting 102 in the near future.

In the area of **computer applications**, a NOCTI assessment was approved for implementation on a trial basis for use with the CAPP (Computer Applications) 120: Introduction to Computers articulation. Other courses in works for articulation include CAPP 154: Word and CAPP 156: Excel.

The wheels of articulation are rolling along and I will keep you informed of the progress.

As a way to help disseminate and explain all this new information to our new business and marketing professionals, the CTE Specialists will be conducting a **New CTE Professionals Workshop** on Wednesday, October 20, in Helena, prior to the beginning of the 2010 Big Sky Pathways Institute. This professional development opportunity will provide teachers who are new to the classroom, as well as those with less than four years of experience, with information on Carl Perkins and State CTE funding, Career Clusters and Montana's Big Sky Pathways, STatewide ARTiculation (START) agreements, CTE and program standards and guidelines, membership and participation in professional organizations, and information on division-specific Career and Technical Student Organizations.

The workshop will be held at the UM-Helena College of Technology's main campus across from Helena High School (1115 North Roberts Street) from 8 am to 5 pm. The training will be free of charge and lunch will be provided for attendees. Up to eight OPI Renewal Units will be offered. More details will be available soon, and the registration form will be on the Secondary CTE page of the OPI website ([www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)).

As the school year kicks off, please let me know of any assistance I can offer; below is my OPI contact information.

Respectfully submitted

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## **Family and Consumer Sciences Education**

### **Human Services & Resources**

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) professionals have been busy over the summer engaging in professional development opportunities around the state including Glendive, Billings and Missoula. Some FCS professionals were also able to take advantage of professional development offered at the national level including conferences offered by the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, Johnson & Wales University, International Center for Leadership in Education, and Family Economics & Financial Education.

In June, the Family & Consumer Sciences Standards Review Team met to review and revise the FCS program standards and guidelines. The team includes Becky Bruce (Jefferson High School in Boulder), Sheila Gay (Billings School District), Cynthia Black Hatten (Colstrip School District), Amy Hofacker (Colstrip School District), Jennifer Maughan (Broadview School District), Lois Reimers (Missoula County Public Schools), Holly Hunts (Montana State University-Bozeman), and Bethany Ringer (Bozeman School District). The work is still in process, and the revised program standards will be made available this fall after completion.

The 2010 FCCLA National Leadership Conference "65 Years of Leadership" was held July 4 – 8 in Chicago, IL, the place where it all started back in 1945. Montana attendance's was 135 students and adults including 2 National Officer Candidates, 4 Spotlight on Project presentations from Forsyth, Reed Point & Three Forks (2), 25 event evaluators, and 55 STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) event participants. Montana brought home 37 gold and 28 silver medals. Two teams scored a perfect score of 100 percent! Congratulations to the Ennis team consisting of Chiara Cross, Ariana Lake, and Alexandra Welch competing in Focus on Children and to the Forsyth team consisting of Haley Kuntz and Lindsey Schwagler competing in Chapter Service Project Manual for a job well done!

During the first two weeks of August, I traveled the state to meet with approximately 110 educators while hosting workshops in the following locations: Butte, Belgrade, Billings, Miles City, Sidney, Malta, Great Falls, Columbia Falls, and Missoula. FCS professionals received professional development on CTE topics including Carl Perkins and Big Sky Pathways, Academic Infusion, Technical Skill Assessments, Middle School to High School Transitions, Best Practices, and Leadership Development for the Classroom. The workshops were well-received, and the information presented will be sustained and revisited during a series of webinars offered over the course of the 2010-2011 school year.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Health Sciences Technology Education**

New health science teacher training was held the week of June 7-11<sup>th</sup> at the College of Technology in Missoula. Seven teachers from Ronan, Bigfork, Thompson Falls, Noxon, Hinsdale, Heart Butte and Lolo attended the training. Congratulations to Rhonda White (Bigfork) and Robin Kratz (Heart Butte) for completing their additional 40-hour job shadow!

Health science teachers from across the state also attended professional development led by Starla Ewan, a masterful and creative health science teacher from Texas. Starla's Creative Teaching Tips brings a new level of excitement and activity to the classroom. Starla's website has great information for all teachers. The workshop received rave reviews from everyone in attendance. [www.starlasteachingtips.com](http://www.starlasteachingtips.com).

For those of you who have not seen the K-12 E-newsletter that contains lesson plans and monthly events pertaining to health science education, you can review all our old archived e-newsletters at <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs032/1102444951854/archive/1102691425113.html>

Also at the bottom of the newsletter it has an icon where you can sign up for the newsletters themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems Cluster**

No update at this time.

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